



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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February 5, 2009

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WW-0**  
**A2874-6**

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber  
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Farber", is written over the typed name and title.

### **BOARD MOTION OF AUGUST 5, 2008, AGENDA ITEM 17 MONTHLY REPORT ON PROGRESS OF WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

On August 5, 2008, your Board directed the Acting Director of the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to report monthly on the progress of the County's multidepartmental water conservation efforts. The following is the sixth monthly report that summarizes the progress of a collaborative effort to implement the water conservation and drought response actions approved by your Board on July 1, 2008.

#### **Action No. 1 (100 percent complete)**

*Declare a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert.*

On August 5, 2008, your Board adopted a resolution declaring a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert urging County residents, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities to intensify water conservation efforts. A letter was sent to all 88 cities in the Los Angeles County on October 20, 2008, to inform them of the Alert and request their support to intensify water conservation efforts.

#### **Action No. 2 (100 percent complete pending adoption by your Board)**

*Update and adopt a water wasting ordinance for unincorporated County areas and the Waterworks Districts' Phased Water Conservation Plan.*

A water wasting ordinance was approved by your Board on October 7, 2008. The ordinance established water conservation and waste prevention measures for unincorporated County areas. A letter was sent on December 30, 2008, to all water companies serving unincorporated County area residents to request that they inform their customers of the ordinance and encourage their customers' voluntary compliance with the ordinance's provisions.

In addition, the Waterworks Districts' Phased Water Conservation Plan has been updated and submitted for your Board's consideration on the February 24, 2009, Agenda.

**Action No. 3 (90 percent complete)**

*Direct all County departments to evaluate water usage, immediately implement conservation measures to reduce consumption by a target amount of 10 percent by December 31, 2008, and report back to your Board with recommended measures to reduce consumption by an additional 10 percent.*

The Internal Services Department (ISD), Public Works, and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are finalizing their water utility bill analysis to determine the effectiveness of recent conservation efforts to reduce Countywide water usage. At the same time, ISD is formatting and archiving this data utilizing ISD's Enterprise Energy Management Information System (EEMIS) to track water costs and consumption. EEMIS will facilitate future tracking and reporting using water bill information from all County departments. Due to normal billing cycles, the consumption results for water account billings through December 31, 2008, will not be available for reporting until late February or early March 2009. Following that report, updated reports will be provided to your Board on a regular basis. Preliminary water savings results for ISD-managed facilities indicate about a 6 to 7 percent reduction in water use for July through November 2008 as compared to the same period in 2006.

ISD commissioned a water savings study that focuses on water use for commercial building heating and cooling systems. Cooling water constitutes a large portion of the water use at these facilities. Substantial water savings can be achieved at many of these facilities by replacing older cooling water systems that require a continuous stream of water with newer systems that recirculate the cooling water. Cooling water recirculation systems have been installed at the Civic Center Heating and Refrigeration Plant and Peter J. Pitchess Honor Rancho Power Plant, two of the County's largest cooling-water-use facilities. Initial results from testing at these facilities indicate that water savings of approximately 15 percent (30 million gallons) can be achieved annually. Additional systems are scheduled for installation at other selected sites in early 2009.

The installation of cooling water recirculation systems currently represents the most economical and effective method to reduce water consumption at County facilities. As a result, ISD has requested \$500,000 in its Fiscal Year 2009-10 Energy Efficiency Projects budget request to install the systems at facilities throughout the County. In the event that the budget request is not approved, ISD plans to provide support to its

customer departments to fund implementation of the systems as part of their routine or extraordinary building maintenance budgets.

At the September 23, 2008, quarterly meeting of Countywide departmental facility managers, representatives from the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California gave presentations on their available water conservation rebate and incentive programs. County facilities may be eligible to receive rebates of 50 to 100 percent of equipment costs for the installation of water-saving devices. Facility managers from DPR, Beaches and Harbors, ISD, Community Development Commission, and the Sheriff and Fire Departments attended the meeting and indicated that they are installing water-saving devices for their facilities. A list of these water-saving devices will be included in a future report with the conservation measures recommended to gain an additional 10 percent water savings.

**Action No. 4 (100 percent complete)**

*Send a five-signature letter to the Governor and leadership of the Legislature urging the State to expedite the award of bond funds from Propositions 84 and 1E to local agencies, including the County of Los Angeles.*

A five-signature letter was sent to the Governor and leadership of the Legislature on July 7, 2008.

**Action No. 5 (100 percent complete)**

*Send a five-signature letter to the Governor and leadership of the Legislature expressing support for the Governor's Delta Vision, which provides a comprehensive, sustainable management plan for the Delta that includes conveyance, expanded storage, ecosystem restoration, and conservation.*

A five-signature letter was sent to the Governor and leadership of the Legislature on September 12, 2008.

**Action No. 6 (95 percent complete)**

*Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) through the Office of Recycled Water and the Energy and Environmental Policy Team in collaboration with ISD, Public Works, DPR, Fire, Sheriff, and other appropriate departments to develop a recycled, nonpotable water infrastructure plan for County facilities; the planning process to include consultation with appropriate water purveyors and waste water treatment agencies.*

*The recycled water infrastructure plan should establish priorities based upon amount of potable water saved and include a funding analysis and recommendations.*

The Recycled Water Infrastructure Implementation Committee has completed its final report, which will be submitted to your Board by mid-February.

**Action No. 7 (30 percent complete)**

*Direct the CEO, working with the Energy and Environmental Policy Team and with input from water conservation specialists to ensure utilization of Best Management Practices, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and Low Impact Development, to develop a water conservation policy applicable to retrofit, refurbishment, and new construction of County facilities and grounds.*

The CEO, Public Works, DPR, and ISD are collaboratively preparing a checklist of Best Management Practices, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and Low Impact Development that will be used to ensure that appropriate water conservation practices are incorporated in projects for the retrofit, refurbishment, and new construction of County facilities and grounds.

**Action No. 8 (100 percent complete)**

*Instruct the Director of Public Works and the Director of Planning to consult with the various water agencies that provide water services to County unincorporated areas, and report back to your Board in 30 days requesting information on how the drought may impact the land development review process for both discretionary and ministerial applications, and what your Board can expect regarding future actions by water agencies on pending development projects in the unincorporated area.*

Public Works and DPR sent a Drought Impact Questionnaire to unincorporated County area retail water purveyors requesting information on how the drought may impact the land development review process. A report summarizing the responses to the Questionnaire was completed on October 9, 2008, and sent to all Board offices.

Updates on these Action Items are also available on the Countywide Energy and Environmental website at <http://www.green.lacounty.gov>, which will be updated regularly.

Each Supervisor  
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me or your staff may contact Adam Arika at (626) 300-3300.

DWP:dv

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cc: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Sheriff  
Chief Executive Office (William T Fujioka, Lari Sheehan)  
Fire Department  
Internal Services Department  
Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Public Health  
Department of Regional Planning